

Date: Sun, 28 Aug 94 21:32:11 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V94 #971
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Sun, 28 Aug 94 Volume 94 : Issue 971

Today's Topics:

 50Mhz control of RC cars?
 ANS-239 BULLETINS
 Aries Packet Program.
 Daily Summary of Solar Geophysical Activity for 25 August
 FLAME the FCC
 ICOM service center phone #?
 Is the moon reflective of radio waves?
 learning CW
 QEX Magazine - Where to Find?
 You have been a ham too long when you ...

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 27 Aug 1994 17:15:14 -0700
From: enews.sgi.com!wdl1!ltis.loral.com!not-for-mail@ames.arpa
Subject: 50Mhz control of RC cars?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Does anyone have information on using 50mhz crystals in a RC
transmitter that is presently using 75mhz crystals? The user
is a licensed ham but we're jsut wondering if the 75mhz RC
transmitters can handle the 50mhz crystals.

Thanks
hlb@ltis.loral.com

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hlb@ltis.loral.com

Date: 28 Aug 94 22:55:53 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: ANS-239 BULLETINS
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

SB SAT @ AMSAT \$ANS-239.01
STS-64 SAREX MISSION INFO

HR AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 239.01 FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD AUGUST 27, 1994
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT
BID: \$ANS-239.01

STS-64 SAREX Update

The next Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) mission is now less than two weeks away. The STS-64 Space Shuttle Discovery Mission, tentatively scheduled for launch on September 9, will carry SAREX voice and packet radio on a 9 day mission. More details on the upcoming SAREX flight are described in the detailed information sheet below.

STS-64 Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) Information Sheet

Mission: STS-64 Space Shuttle Discovery
Lidar In-Space Technology Experiment (LITE-1)
SPARTAN-201
Robot Operated Materials Processing System (ROMPS)

Launch: September 9, 1994, 20:30 UTC

Orbit: 57 degree inclination

Mission Length: 9 days (Nominal)

Amateur
Radio

Operators: Dick Richards, KB5SIW, Commander, Blaine Hammond, KC5HBS,
Pilot, and Jerry Linenger, KC5HBR, Mission Specialist

Modes: FM Voice

Prime callsign: KB5SIW

Packet Radio

Callsign: W5RRR-1

Frequencies: All operations in split mode. Do not transmit on the downlink frequency.

Voice Freqs: Downlink: 145.55 MHz (Worldwide)

Uplinks: 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97, 144.99 MHz
(Except Europe)

144.70, 144.75, 144.80 MHz (Europe only)

Note: the crew will not favor any specific uplink frequency, so your ability to work the crew will be the "luck of the draw"

Packet Freqs: Downlink: 145.55 MHz

Uplink: 144.49 MHz

Info: Goddard Amateur Radio Club, WA3NAN, Greenbelt Maryland,
SAREX Bulletins and Shuttle Retransmissions

3860 KHz, 7185 KHz, 14,295 KHz, 21,395 KHz, 28,650 KHz
and 147.45 MHz (FM)

ARRL Amateur Radio Station, W1AW, Newington, CT

SAREX News Bulletins

3990, 7290, 14,290, 18,160, 21,390, and 28,590 KHz
and 147.555 MHz (FM)

:Also, bulletins available on internet, via AMSAT ANS,
Compuserve, and your local PBSS.

School Group Participation: 10 school groups will participate in SAREX with pre-scheduled direct and telebridge contacts. These include nine in the U.S., and one in New Zealand.

Prelaunch Keplerian Elements:

These are the Keplerian elements for STS-64 mission, rotated to the current planned launch time of Sep 9 at 20:30 UTC. The JSC-005 epoch is at the start of orbit 5, after the trim burns on orbits 3 and 4. The negative drag fit was required to match the design trajectory because there is a 6.5 fps trim burn on orbit 28. The phasing and circ burns on orbit 99 lower the altitude by about 8 n.mi, so the second element set JSC-006 is required after that. These Keps are provided by Gil Carman, WA5NOM at the Johnson Space Center ARC.

STS-64

```
1 00064U      94253.10077961 -.00030838 00000-0 -39665-4 0    59
2 00064  57.0058 195.1865 0009670 275.6619  84.3358 16.05979206    51
```

Satellite: STS-64

Catalog number: 00064

Epoch time: 94253.10077961 = (10 SEP 94 02:25:07.36 UTC)

Element set: 005

Inclination: 57.0058 deg

RA of node: 195.1865 deg

Space Shuttle Flight STS-64

Eccentricity: .0009670

Prelaunch Element set JSC-005

Arg of perigee: 275.6619 deg

Launch: 09 SEP 94 20:30 UTC

Mean anomaly: 84.3358 deg

Mean motion: 16.05979206 rev/day

G. L. Carman

Decay rate: -3.0838e-04 rev/day^2

NASA Johnson Space Center

Epoch rev: 5

Checksum: 309

Note: Element set JSC-005 is valid for orbits 2 through 98.

Use JSC-006 after 15 Sep 94, 22:51:30 UTC (MET 6/03:49:30).

STS-64

```
1 00064U      94259.01448182 .00096406 00000-0  94275-4 0    62
2 00064  57.0059 167.2656 0009343 269.2157  90.7841 16.11240267  1002
```

Satellite: STS-64

Catalog number: 00064

Epoch time: 94259.01448182 = (16 SEP 94 00:20:51.23 UTC)

Element set: 006

Inclination: 57.0059 deg

RA of node: 167.2656 deg

Space Shuttle Flight STS-64

Eccentricity: .0009343

Prelaunch Element set JSC-006

Arg of perigee: 269.2157 deg

Launch: 09 SEP 94 20:30 UTC

Mean anomaly: 90.7841 deg

Mean motion: 16.11240267 rev/day

G. L. Carman

Decay rate: 9.6406e-04 rev/day^2

NASA Johnson Space Center

Epoch rev: 100

Checksum: 286

Note: Element set JSC-006 is valid for orbits 99 through 142.

Use JSC-005 before 15 Sep 94, 22:51:30 UTC (MET 6/03:49:30).

The deorbit burn is on 18 Sep at 15:40 UTC (MET 8/20:38).

/EX

SB SAT @ AMSAT \$ANS-239.02

WEEKLY OSCAR STATUS REPORTS

HR AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 239.02 FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD AUGUST 27, 1994
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT
BID: \$ANS-239.02

Weekly OSCAR Status Reports: 27-AUG-94

AO-13: Current Transponder Operating Schedule:

M QST *** AO-13 TRANSPONDER SCHEDULE *** 1994 Jul 11 - Sep 12

Mode-B : MA 0 to MA 90 | Omnis : MA 230 to MA 30

Mode-BS : MA 90 to MA 120 |

Mode-S : MA 120 to MA 122 |<- S beacon only

Mode-S : MA 122 to MA 145 |<- S transponder; B trsp. is OFF

Mode-S : MA 145 to MA 150 |<- S beacon only

Mode-BS : MA 150 to MA 180 | Blon/Blat 180/0

Mode-B : MA 180 to MA 256 | Move to attitude 230/0, Sep 12

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N QST *** AO-13 TRANSPONDER SCHEDULE *** 1994 Sep 12 - Dec 19

Mode-B : MA 30 to MA 150 |<- OFF Oct 22 - Nov 07 for eclipses

Mode-B : MA 150 to MA 190 | max duration 2h 12m

Mode-BS : MA 190 to MA 218 |

Mode-S : MA 218 to MA 220 |<- S beacon only

Mode-S : MA 220 to MA 230 |<- S transponder; B trsp. is OFF

Mode-B : MA 230 to MA 30 | Alon/Alat 230/0

Omnis : MA 250 to MA 140 | Move to attitude 180/0, Dec 19

The battery charge state is of paramount importance during the eclipse seasons. As always the command team may have to have to make temporary changes to the published schedule. In that case we will try to minimize the inconvenience, setting Mode-B OFF from MA 230-256 in the first instance.

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[G3RUH/DB20S/VK5AGR]

RS-10: In last week's OSCAR Status Reports N01R reported that he has made some very spectacular contacts with his very modest Mode-A station arrangement. His station set-up includes a Kenwood TR-751A at 25 watts into a AEA Isopole up about 35 ft. His receiver is the Realistic HTX-100 into an inverted-vee up about 30 ft with an Advanced Receiver Research 10M preamp. This week N01R reports that he has just received a QSL from Andy Mironov at RS3A confirming my RS-10 Robot QSO in April. Andy also writes: "I will be glad to have any info abt your work via RS: your DX? PSE send by post or packet. 73 Andy" The packet address is for Andy is: RK3KPK@RK3KP.RUS.EU [N01R]

AO-13: N7RYW would like to pass on a note about the Mode-S transponder. He has noticed that there is one station who continually sweeps the uplink, looking for his downlink signal. This is fine normally, N7RYW says, but as

this station starts to increase his power far in excess of what is needed when he is unable to find himself. The net effect of this is that other stations can't hear themselves either because the AGC on the uplink receiver has reduced its sensitivity to compensate for this strong signal. This has the effect of reducing the AGC affects EVERYONES, making it impossible to even hear their own signals! N7RYW has tried to respond to this station CW CQs when it finally does settle down (over 20 minutes one day!), but it does not respond to N7RYW's SSB call. N7RYW says he doesn't have a key, and doesn't want to install one just for just one single lid! All of the Mode-S users N7RYW has talked with are well aware of the power limits for uplinking with this one exception. N7RYW will not single out this person with their callsign, so he hopes a call to him in this way, with as much information as possible, without the call, will get his attention. This problem is ongoing, and serious. A station recently was attempting their first QSO on Mode-S a few days ago, and could not get it done due to this over-powered signal wiping out the transponder. This is definitely NOT radar, which does not start sending CQ CQ CQ DE *****! While it won't help the excess power problem, this item may help people "find themselves." N7RYW has found that the Mode-S transponder's actual downlink appears to be 2400.735 MHz to 2400.765 MHz, up 30 kHz from those published. N7RYW does not own a signal source with that high of frequency to verify this, but the UO-11 beacon passed zero Doppler within 1 kHz of the published frequency, so N7RYW would like to hear if anyone else has found those frequencies to be more accurate so he can verify and notify!
[N7RYW@teleport.com]

KO-23: N7RYW reports that KO-23 is now back in operation after an OBC crash. The groundstation control elected to do a data dump to try to find the cause of the crash, so it took a few extra days to get the OBC reset.
[N7RYW@teleport.com]

KO-25: KO-25 is back in service. Both KITSATs were down at various times for output power tests. These tests appear to be over for now. N7RYW has noticed that when either one is down due to a crash, a peculiar tone is emitted on the transmitter. If you are getting a good signal level, but no data, turn up the volume and listen for this tone. It may save you some head scratching later! Also, on the two KITSATs, the control station usually puts out a notice when one of the sats will not be in regular service. They are usually short notices, and originate from HL0ENJ, so it might be good to mark all messages from this station for automatic downloading in your select files. [N7RYW@teleport.com]

UO-11: The 2401.5 MHz beacon was been heard by N7RYW twice with an unmodulated carrier. On the first occassion he had the polarization set at LHCP, and it was just barely audible. Later he changed to RHCP and the signal was very strong. This polarity change was done on a 6' dish with a horn type feed with dual probes fed 90 degrees apart, much like a crossed dipole.
[N7RYW@teleport.com]

AO-16: AO-16 is up and running well. [WH6I]

The AMSAT NEWS Service (ANS) is looking for volunteers to contribute weekly OSCAR status reports. If you have a favorite OSCAR which you work on a regular basis and would like to contribute to this bulletin, please send your observations to WD0HHU at his CompuServe address of 70524,2272, on INTERNET at wd0hhu@amsat.org, or to his local packet BBS in the Denver, CO area, WD0HHU @ N0QCU. Also, if you find that the current set of orbital elements are not generating the correct AOS/LOS times at your QTH, PLEASE INCLUDE THAT INFORMATION AS WELL. The information you provide will be of value to all OSCAR enthusiasts.

/EX

Date: Sat, 27 Aug 94 20:38:39 GMT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!library.ucla.edu!csulb.edu!csus.edu!
netcom.com!netcomsv!skyld!janguis@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Aries Packet Program.
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <9408251640.aa12794@COR5.PICA.ARMY.MIL> Waltek@pica.army.mil writes:

> I have heard there exists a packet program called "Aries."
> I'd like to know where to find it? Is a demo available
> via LLBBS or anonymous ftp?

Aries or ARES?

Aries is available from Ashton ITC for \$89.00 (when last I asked).
PO Box 830 Dandridge TN 37725 or phone 1 (617) 397-0742
It is a contest and logging program that includes the software to
run Icom radios with the CT-17 controller.

ARES is the Amateur Radio Emergency Services psuedo-bbs package. I
believe it is available from the ARRL and/or TAPR.

73 es GM from Jeff

Amateur: WA6FWI@WA6FWI.#SOCA.CA.USA.NOAM	"You have a flair for adding
Internet: janguis@skyld.grendel.com	a fanciful dimension to any
US Mail: PO Box 4425 Carson, CA 90749	story."
Phone: 1 (310) 324-6080	Peking Noodle Co.

Hate "Green Card Lottery"? Want to help curb ignorant crossposting on Usenet?
E-mail ckeroack@hamp.hampshire.edu for more information, or read news.groups.

Date: Thu, 25 Aug 1994 20:38:53 MDT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!
newsxfer.itd.umich.edu!nntp.cs.ubc.ca!alberta!ve6mgs!usenet@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Daily Summary of Solar Geophysical Activity for 25 August
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

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DAILY SUMMARY OF SOLAR GEOPHYSICAL ACTIVITY

25 AUGUST, 1994

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(Based In-Part On SESC Observational Data)

SOLAR AND GEOPHYSICAL ACTIVITY INDICES FOR 25 AUGUST, 1994

NOTE: The background x-ray flux was below class A1.0 today.

!!BEGIN!! (1.0) S.T.D. Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for DAY 237, 08/25/94
10.7 FLUX=071.0 90-AVG=078 SSN=015 BKI=1414 2322 BAI=012
BGND-XRAY=A1.0 FLU1=3.0E+05 FLU10=1.4E+04 PKI=2434 3331 PAI=013
BOU-DEV=008,054,008,040,018,020,017,010 DEV-AVG=021 NT SWF=00:000
XRAY-MAX= A1.8 @ 0605UT XRAY-MIN= A1.0 @ 1855UT XRAY-AVG= A1.3
NEUTN-MAX= +001% @ 1625UT NEUTN-MIN= -003% @ 1345UT NEUTN-AVG= -0.4%
PCA-MAX= +0.1DB @ 1735UT PCA-MIN= -0.2DB @ 1405UT PCA-AVG= +0.0DB
BOUTF-MAX=55228NT @ 0453UT BOUTF-MIN=55181NT @ 1736UT BOUTF-AVG=55210NT
GOES7-MAX=P:+000NT@ 0000UT GOES7-MIN=N:+000NT@ 0000UT G7-AVG=+074,+000,+000
GOES6-MAX=P:+132NT@ 1626UT GOES6-MIN=N:-021NT@ 2019UT G6-AVG=+099,+028,-004
FLUXFCST=STD:070,070,070;SESC:070,070,070 BAI/PAI-FCST=010,010,005/010,010,010
KFCST=1223 4221 1223 4221 27DAY-AP=012,009 27DAY-KP=3332 2333 3322 2223
WARNINGS=
ALERTS=
!!END-DATA!!

NOTE: The Effective Sunspot Number for 24 AUG 94 was 22.9.
The Full Kp Indices for 24 AUG 94 are: 2- 2- 1- 1- 1o 2o 2- 2-
The 3-Hr Ap Indices for 24 AUG 94 are: 7 7 3 3 4 8 6 7
Greater than 2 MeV Electron Fluence for 25 AUG is: 2.7E+06

SYNOPSIS OF ACTIVITY

Solar activity was very low. Region 7770 (S08E12) is the one spotted region visible. The limbs were also quiet.

Solar activity forecast: solar activity is expected to be very low.

The geomagnetic field was at quiet to active levels. Substorms occurred during local nighttimes.

Geophysical activity forecast: the geomagnetic field is expected to be mostly unsettled the next 3 days.

Event probabilities 26 aug-28 aug

Class M	01/01/01
Class X	01/01/01
Proton	01/01/01
PCAF	Green

Geomagnetic activity probabilities 26 aug-28 aug

A. Middle Latitudes	
Active	25/25/20
Minor Storm	10/10/10
Major-Severe Storm	05/05/05
B. High Latitudes	
Active	30/30/25
Minor Storm	15/15/15
Major-Severe Storm	05/05/05

HF propagation conditions were normal over all regions. No changes are expected over the next 3 days, through 28 August inclusive. Near-normal conditions will continue.

COPIES OF JOINT USAF/NOAA SESC SOLAR GEOPHYSICAL REPORTS

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REGIONS WITH SUNSPOTS. LOCATIONS VALID AT 25/2400Z AUGUST

NMBR	LOCATION	LO	AREA	Z	LL	NN	MAG	TYPE
7770	S08E12	225	0040	CAO	06	005	BETA	
7767	S15W61	298					PLAGE	
7768	S14W68	305					PLAGE	
7769	N10W73	310					PLAGE	

REGIONS DUE TO RETURN 26 AUGUST TO 28 AUGUST

NMBR LAT LO

7762 N04 116

LISTING OF SOLAR ENERGETIC EVENTS FOR 25 AUGUST, 1994

A. ENERGETIC EVENTS:

BEGIN MAX END RGN LOC XRAY OP 245MHZ 10CM SWEEP

NONE

POSSIBLE CORONAL MASS EJECTION EVENTS FOR 25 AUGUST, 1994

BEGIN MAX END LOCATION TYPE SIZE DUR II IV

NO EVENTS OBSERVED

INFERRED CORONAL HOLES. LOCATIONS VALID AT 25/2400Z

ISOLATED HOLES AND POLAR EXTENSIONS

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH CAR TYPE POL AREA OBSN

NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR ANALYSIS

SUMMARY OF FLARE EVENTS FOR THE PREVIOUS UTC DAY

Date Begin Max End Xray Op Region Locn 2695 MHz 8800 MHz 15.4 GHz

24 Aug: 1222 1230 1237 B2.1
1800 1808 1816 B2.4

REGION FLARE STATISTICS FOR THE PREVIOUS UTC DAY

C M X S 1 2 3 4 Total (%)
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
Uncorrelated: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 002 (100.0)

Total Events: 002 optical and x-ray.

EVENTS WITH SWEEPS AND/OR OPTICAL PHENOMENA FOR THE LAST UTC DAY

Date Begin Max End Xray Op Region Locn Sweeps/Optical Observations

NO EVENTS OBSERVED.

NOTES:

All times are in Universal Time (UT). Characters preceding begin, max, and end times are defined as: B = Before, U = Uncertain, A = After. All times associated with x-ray flares (ex. flares which produce associated x-ray bursts) refer to the begin, max, and end times of the x-rays. Flares which are not associated with x-ray signatures use the optical observations to determine the begin, max, and end times.

Acronyms used to identify sweeps and optical phenomena include:

II	= Type II Sweep Frequency Event
III	= Type III Sweep
IV	= Type IV Sweep
V	= Type V Sweep
Continuum	= Continuum Radio Event
Loop	= Loop Prominence System,
Spray	= Limb Spray,
Surge	= Bright Limb Surge,
EPL	= Eruptive Prominence on the Limb.

** End of Daily Report **

Date: Sun, 28 Aug 94 15:29:15 -0500
From: news.delphi.com!usenet@uunet.uu.net
Subject: FLAME the FCC
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Bob Levine <levine@mc.com> writes:

>He waited 17 years to take the test and now complains that the
>government is taking 14 weeks to give him his FREE license.

Exactly how many newborn babies are capable of passing an amateur license exam?

More to the point, exactly how does the fact that this license is issued at no charge (it's really paid for with tax money) justify rotten service?

Date: Sat, 27 Aug 94 20:49:08 GMT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!library.ucla.edu!csulb.edu!csus.edu!
netcom.com!netcomsv!skyld!janguis@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: ICOM service center phone #?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <33ia16\$adt@news.duke.edu> jbs@ee.duke.edu writes:

[I've obviously hit a nerve here]

> Why, gee, we're so awfully impressed with how much money you have to spend
> on your radios.

[and]

> I happen to have the service manual already for this rig, so I guess it
> looks like you don't know what you're talking about, now doesn't it?

It **never** fails to amaze me how people can read something and be completely incapable of understanding what they have just read.

Clueless Joe, that's you're new name on this group. How many people own Icom radios? How many require service? How many phone calls does Icom have to deal with from people that can't be bothered to read their owners manuals? And you want Icom to hire extra people full time just so that when **YOU** call, you might not have to spend a few extra dollars or be inconvenienced by having to wait a few minutes?

I'm sorry if it offends you that I have money to spend on equipment, or especially if I choose to spend it on phone calls, shipping materials or service manuals.

73 es GA from Jeff, have a nice day Joe, I know I will.....

Amateur: WA6FWI@WA6FWI.#SOCA.CA.USA.NOAM	"You have a flair for adding
Internet: jangus@skyld.grendel.com	a fanciful dimension to any
US Mail: PO Box 4425 Carson, CA 90749	story."
Phone: 1 (310) 324-6080	Peking Noodle Co.

Hate "Green Card Lottery"? Want to help curb ignorant crossposting on Usenet?
E-mail ckeroack@hamp.hampshire.edu for more information, or read news.groups.

Date: Sun, 28 Aug 1994 04:37:45 GMT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!lll-winken.llnl.gov!uop!
csus.edu!netcom.com!wa2ise@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Is the moon reflective of radio waves?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <33l3kp\$187q@ns2.CC.Lehigh.EDU> x011@ns2.CC.Lehigh.EDU writes:
>Is the moon reflective enough of radio waves to use it as a reflective radio
>telescope?

Don't know about a reflective radio telescope, but amateur radio (ham) operators have frequently bounced their radio transmissions off the Moon. Usually using VHF (30 to 300MHz) or UHF (300 to 1000 MHz) frequencies. These frequency bands almost never bounce off the ionosphere, so to get long distance communications (intercontinental), hams bounce their signals off the Moon. It ain't easy, they need high power and directional antennas and low noise sensitive receivers. It's called "EME".

Date: Sat, 27 Aug 1994 23:50:06 +0000
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!pipex!demon!arkas.demon.co.uk!Michael@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: learning CW
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <3397dj\$rsb@gerald.cc.utexas.edu>
oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu "Derek Wills" writes:

> We see a lot of requests here for computer programs by people interested
> in learning "the code". Some of us real oldies who were born before
[snip]

Well, here comes my \$US 0.02 worth (~\$AUS 0.03; or ~UKP 0.01) ...

I've seen quite a few postings on this one. I speak / write as someone who learnt code from three methods:

- 1) tapes;
- 2) on-air copying of 80 m ham traffic (fairly tame - all vk novices tx'ing nice & slow), marine traffic lists (callsigns were sent twice), and wx reports; and
- 3) using code practice oscillators & keys.

I passed my 5 wpm rx test with 1 error, and my 10 wpm with none! I subsequently became vk4vle in late 1981, and upgraded to vk4bmd within 3 months.

I remember my first *real* cw qso - it was on 20 m. I don't think any amount of preparation on my part would have made it any easier! I'd had *tame* qso's on 10 m across town, but you can imagine just how tame that was! In that qso on 20 m, I was suddenly hit with the full gamut of abbreviations, interference, fading, noise, the requirement for a near-immediate reply (otherwise the guy started calling back to see if I was still there!), and just sheer nervousness. It was what one would call a template qso.

After my first few nights on 20 m, I started to find things a lot easier. By the end of the month my speed had increased, I had developed the "human ear adaptive filter" technique needed to wrest the wanted signal from the 3 others qrm'ing, could start to compose a reply while copying (hard copy, too) the incoming traffic, and could also send in the "off the cuff" style so very important to conversational cw.

My first three months as a full call in 1982 were filled with cw qso's ... why? Two reasons:

- 1) I enjoyed using the medium (yes, the "hollywood" bit initially applied!) - especially in conversational mode; and
- 2) I'd borrowed "my" first all-band rig off an old ham friend - a dedicated cw op - and he "conveniently" failed to provide a microphone when I picked up the rig!

Some of my most memorable qso's have been on cw - the majority of them to those folks across the water in w / n / k land. They were all amazed that I could reach them nightly on 20 m using 10 - 20 W and a dipole. It was fun!

Now, I'm not on air much. But, I want to get back to it all soon - especially when I get back to vk . I'm using the PC and cw program to get my copy speed up, and am finding that it *will* change my operating technique. I'll definitely be using a typewriter or keyboard to copy the traffic, but NO pc-driven code reader! I'll try to stick with my old PMG No.2 key, but I *might* go to an iambic, or something along those lines.

73's all

--

Mike Dower

GOVEY

VK2ENG

'Quoth the raven, "Never more".' ... Poe

Date: Sat, 27 Aug 94 15:11:14 MST

From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!wupost!udel!news.sprintlink.net!primenet!stat!david@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: QEX Magazine - Where to Find?

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Brian <bricar@delphi.com> writes:

> I want to get a copy of the August 1994 issue of the QEX magazine. I have
> search my local book stores and have only found the same four amateur
> radio magazines, but no QEX. Can someone please let me know where to find

> this magazine. Are there amateur radio shops that would stock this magazine?

QEX is a subscription magazine published by the ARRL. Try sending email to:

qex@arrl.org

I don't know if you can buy single back issues.

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Date: 28 Aug 94 01:13:54 -0500

From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!

europa.eng.gtefsd.com!ulowell!aspen.uml.edu!martinja@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: You have been a ham too long when you ...

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1994Aug26.171037.1344@tellab5.tellabs.com>, jwa@tellabs.com

(John Albert) writes:

> How about when you call your favorite Ham Radio Store and say

> "This Joe WA9XXX" with out giving your last name!

How about when you retire from the United States Air Force after 20 long years, and then go to school for six months <looking for work all the while and not finding it> and then end up working at your favorite ham radio store...

Happened to me!

73 de WK1V

-jim-

Oh well, can't be a VE anymore... :(

End of Info-Hams Digest V94 #971
